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BASA Bulletin

INFORMED COMMENT FROM THE BRITISH ADHESIVES & SEALANTS ASSOCIATION

TIGHT RAW MATERIAL SUPPLY CONTINUES TO IMPACT MANUFACTURING

Global demand for raw materials continues to increase as economies start to recover from the coronavirus epidemic. Combined with a tight supply of raw materials this is putting increasing pressure on supplies to UK manufacturing businesses. With the continued impact of COVID-19 and a range of Brexit-related issues, the supply chain is facing significant challenges, particularly when it comes to imported products and materials.

"Everywhere You Look, the Global Supply Chain Is a Mess," Wall Street Journal, March 2021

For information on the current supply hotspots, there is an online resource providing data on the availability of key construction materials. This is published by Build UK and the Chartered Institute of Procurement & Supply (CIPS). Timber is currently RAG-rated 'red', with lead times of between four and six weeks, while there are nine 'amber' rated products including cladding, paint, and steel.

Meanwhile the latest statement from the CLC Product Availability Group, where BASA is able to access information through our membership of the CPA, states that 'demand shows few signs of slowing'.

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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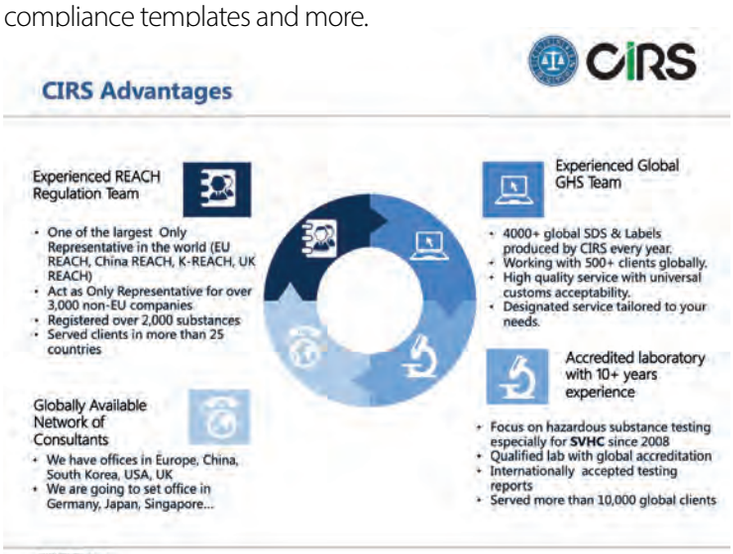
Secretariat update

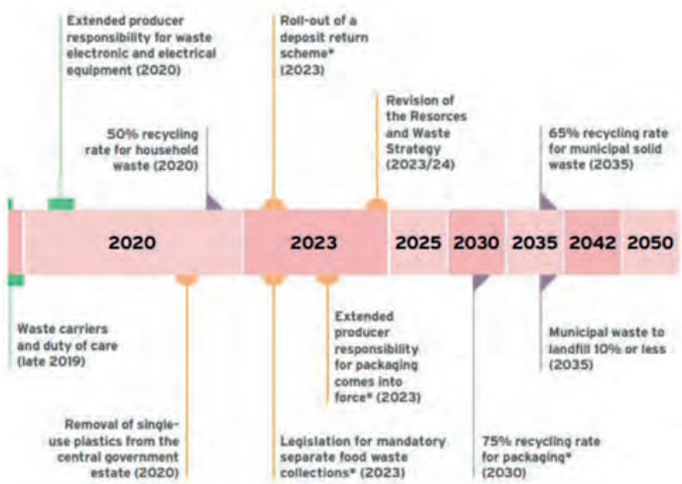
We continue to be very busy at the BASA office, helping members navigate the complex regulatory world that we find ourselves in post Brexit. UKCA marking & UKREACH are challenging for many members and we continue to run the Friday morning drop-in clinics every week at 10:00. If you have any issues or questions, then please 'drop in' and join the informal discussions, find the link on the website here. Many members who have participated have said how helpful they find these weekly sessions, where we have no agenda and can talk about any issues that you are facing.

This month's big effort was organising and running our third virtual BASA Open Industry Forum. We had a record breaking 65 delegates booked for the event and 4 excellent speakers (plus me) lined up to talk about UK REACH, Extended Producer Responsibility and a quick UKCA marking update.

BASA's newest member Chemical Inspection and Regulation Service Ltd (CIRS) spoke first and gave an excellent presentation on the difficult topic of UK REACH. Dean Winder concluded his extremely informative presentation with a generous offer of 1-hour free consultancy for BASA Member companies. With offices in the UK, EU and globally CIRS are able to assist BASA Members with both their UK and EU REACH obligations (as well as their global chemical compliance regimes) and can act as an OR, so we strongly advise you to contact CIRS to see if they can help you if you are struggling to understand what you need to do. BASA have a members guide to UK REACH which is available on the Health and Safety page of the BASA website as well as a raft of other useful documents to help you with DUINS, Classifying and labelling substances and mixtures placed on the GB market, UK-EU REACH compliance templates and more.



We then moved on to talk about Extended Producer Responsibility – which is a topic that we urge all BASA Members to keep in their minds. BASA had posted the news about the second consultation that closed on 4th June. The current producer responsibility system for packaging has been in place since 1997 and predates the introduction of devolved government in Scotland and Wales in 1999. It operates UK-wide under GB and parallel Northern Ireland regulations. In response to commitments made by the four governments to reform the existing regime and to incentivise producers to take more responsibility for the materials and products they place on the market, the UK Government, the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in Northern Ireland published a joint consultation in February 2019 setting out proposals to reform the producer responsibility system for packaging.



Whilst billed as 'Polluter Pays' in fact it feels much more like 'Producer Pays' and our two excellent speakers George Atkinson, Policy manager at Valpak and Dick Searle, Chief Executive of the Packaging Federation gave us two excellent presentations on their take on the consequences of the reforms. If you were not able to attend the Open Forum, we would recommend that you listen to their presentations through the recordings (available on the website). BASA will be looking at what we need to do between now and the introduction of the new charges. As this impacts all of the primary packaging that is essential to supply adhesives and sealantsand is in addition to the Plastics Tax, and covers both business to business and business to consumer applications, we will need to look at whether there are any mitigations that can be applied. It is likely that, unless the UK can invest in chemical recycling, there will not be any substantial mitigation possible, as all packaging is likely to be 'contaminated' by residual adhesive and sealant. Even if the packing material used is 'recyclable' once contaminated with our adhesives and sealants this may make the packing no longer considered to be recyclable in the context of any costs.

Our 4th presentation was an update on UKREACH given by

DEFRA's Hermione Mackelworth and Simon Johnson. Hermione explained the next steps following the grandfathering exercise and Simon advised that if manufacturers had good reasons for missing the initial grandfathering deadline, it was worth contacting HSE as they were taking a pragmatic approach and there may be limited opportunities to briefly 're-open' the process to catch essential raw materials. A list of the grandfathered substances was requested asap, as this is essential to know whether a DUIN could be avoided. Should an existing grandfathered substance from a new supplier be assessed then under UK REACH, the principle of "one substance, one registration" has been retained. This means that manufacturers and importers of the same substance should be part of a 'joint registration'. Some additional DEFRA guidance regarding the costs of this would be helpful (as the data may be held by the lead registrant and it would be expected that the costs will be shared). Substance groups are the way that 'Comply with UK REACH' organises registrants and registrants of the same substance are automatically matched and put in a substance group after either submission of the initial substance identification information in the case of grandfathered registrations or after the substance inquiry submission for new registrants after a Downstream User Import Notification.

We also had some information on what is being done about restrictions and authorisations and were informed that the work HSE and EA will do each year will be articulated in the '**UK REACH Work Programme**'. The first one is now published on the HSE website:
https://www.hse.gov.uk/reach/work-programme.htm

The Open Industry Forum was completed with an update on UKCA marking. I reminded Members that the current legislation allows either UKCA OR CE marking and that unless and until new legislation is passed, this provision in the prohibition of supply clause is not date limited. The legislation in place takes precedence over any government 'intentions' and any changes to the UK Construction products regulation have to be introduced under the secondary legislation provisions of the Building Safety Bill. In effect this means that CE marking will continue to be recognised until at least October 2022, and more likely into 2023. It feels like 1st January 2023 is a good date to aim for, and we hope that our continued lobbying might resolve the issue of historical AVCP3 test reports issued by an EU Notified body to support UKCA marking.

The key takeaways for the UKCA presentation are:

1. Products can continue to be placed on the GB market probably until at least October 2022
2. The UK and EU legislation as currently in force requires EU-27 Notified Body reports to support CE marking for AVCP3 products and UKAB body reports to support UKCA marking for AVCP3 products
3. We will have at least 6 months' notice of any changes ion legislation that cease the recognition of CE marking, and Royal Assent to start this will not happen before the end of the year
4. Under the prohibition of supply clause in the existing regulation, new products placed on the GB market do not have to be UKCA marked if they are affixed with valid CE marking
5. For higher AVCP levels, then the certification body can take responsibility and use existing test reports whoever issued them
6. For new testing a UKAB can work with an EUNB to carry out the testing and share the results allowing the EUNB to issue a test report for the manufacturer to affix both CE and UKCA marking
7. It appears that for AVCP3 UKAS will still not allow a UKAB to sub-contract the actual testing to an EUNB – but this is still not 100% clear as the recently issued UKAS technical bulletin says it is permissible under the UKCA System for Approved Laboratories to outsource required testing activities to external providers as long the UK Approved Laboratory is competent to review the resulting test reports and to take responsibility for that testing and must hold UKAS accreditation for the scope of testing concerned.

I will continue to update members as soon as I have new information on this topic
All the Open Forum videos and presentations are available on the BASA website (Members Only area), and BASA's Technical Officer Jim Palmer thanked all the speakers and attendees for attending what was a hugely successful event.

Autumn Open Industry Forum provisionally Thursday 4th November

We would like to judge the appetite to run an in-person event on November 4th somewhere in the Midlands. We feel that after such a long period of no face-to-face meetings that it would be useful to run an event for members but need to assess whether this is what Member Companies would like and would support, or whether they feel that for at least this year they would prefer to participate virtually only. We will be running a member's poll to assist with the decision making!

TIGHT RAW MATERIAL SUPPLY CONTINUES TO IMPACT MANUFACTURING (*continued*)

BASA members relied on the free movement of materials and products between EU Member States without the imposition of tariffs or customs formalities and whilst the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) signed with the EU established tariff-free and quota-free trade for some goods, the rules are complicated. To benefit from the TCA, you must be able to demonstrate proof of origin. Whilst this means that substances imported from the EU may not attract tariffs, certain customs declarations and other formalities that are now required at UK/EU borders have created additional administrative burdens for those importing goods.

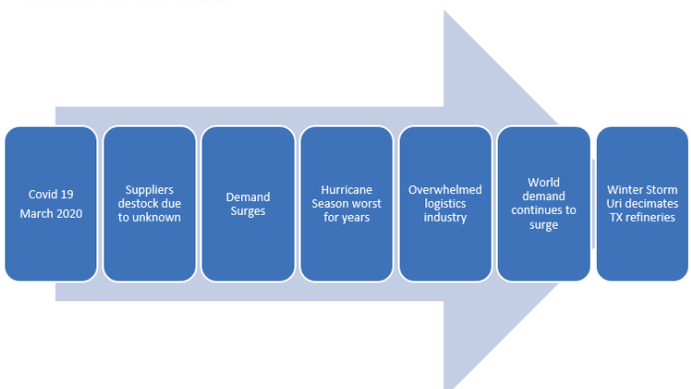
Between the pandemic, container shortages, winter weather, factory fires, the blocking of the Suez Canal by a container ship, and other logistics woes, things got really messy!

During summer 2020, Covid-19-related lockdowns caused inventory levels to fall. Then, in August, Hurricane Laura forced several petrochemical factories in Louisiana and Texas to shut down; overnight 10% to 15% of U.S. PE and PP production stopped.

This was followed by a slew of force majeures from big polymer producers, including LyondellBasell in Louisiana and Chevron Phillips Chemical in Texas. (By declaring force majeure, these suppliers were relieved of certain supply-delivery commitments due to circumstances outside their control.) A fire at Norway's Tjeldbergodden industrial facility in December triggered an evacuation of staff and the shutdown of Europe's largest methanol plant. Simultaneously, Covid-19 safety precautions slowed production at many workplaces and caused labour and haulier shortages at ports.

The final blow was the winter storm in February that struck the Gulf Coast. Texas is home to the world's largest petrochemical complex, which turns oil and gas and other by-products into plastics. Almost 100 critical chemicals and derivatives used widely across many products and industries are processed in Texas. It will take more than six months to correct the imbalances caused by the storm. The freezing weather in Europe exacerbated tight chemicals supply with Evonik announced a force majeure on acrylic acid production at its plant in Marl, Germany on 9 February, as the disruption to railways and roads halted the flow of raw materials and finished products and another force majeure was called by Italian producer Radici at is adipic acid site in Zeitz, Germany because transport had been suspended due to the bad weather. Given these problems, the grounding of a container ship in the Suez Canal on March 23 could not have come at a worse time.

Causes of the Crisis



Polymers & Monomers

While demand for polymers grew in the second half of 2020, supply did not follow accordingly. Issues as wide ranging as a global shortage of shipping containers to extreme weather conditions in the USA leading to production losses affecting the European market have all contributed to the alarmingly low stocks. This spate of force-majeure declarations meant most companies experienced substantial price increases. This situation was further aggravated by shortages of shipping containers, driving polymer prices to record levels, and dramatically reduced converting companies' already tight margins. Vinyl acetate and silicone are both experiencing significant global shortages and the costs of adhesives and sealants are up by nearly a third. Butyl acetate (butac), methyl methacrylate (MMA), vinyl acetate monomer (VAM), epoxy resins, and isocyanates among the tightest petrochemicals in terms of availability. Due to the tightness, prices for each have also risen.

Hauliers

The availability of hauliers is a particular issue over the past months, and this is now a critical nationwide problem causing delays and impacting project programmes. Two letters from RHA and CBA sent to the Prime Minister in June flagging the issues have been posted on the BASA website Business Steering Committee.

Outlook

It is expected that raw material costs should start to fall back by H2. As the availability of material improve with more production coming back online it is hoped that most upstream prices have now peaked.

Beardow Adams Hot Melt Werk GmbH receives ISO certification

Beardow Adams' latest production facility has been awarded its first ISO certification for the manufacture of hot-melt adhesives.

Beardow Adams Hot Melt Werk GmbH is a multimillion-euro production facility that opened in 2019 as an extension to the adhesive company's UK production site. It was designed to help Beardow Adams better serve mainland Europe. This world-scale manufacturing site has now received the ISO 9001:2015 certification.

Beardow Adams Hot Melt Werk is Beardow Adams' second facility in Frankfurt and is now the company's final factory to be awarded an ISO certification.

Beardow Adams' UK, Swedish, Spanish and US sites have already received an ISO certification with some also receiving an ISO 14001:2015 certification.

The ISO 9001 Quality Management certification is known as the world's most recognised QMS standard. It is defined as the international standard that specifies requirements for a quality management system and helps businesses to improve efficiency and profit margins, win and retain business and stand out from competitors.

Being awarded this certification marks Beardow Adams' latest formal step in the development of its Hot Melt Werk business. The certification helps to ensure that the products manufactured from this facility are of the quality its users come to expect and demonstrates to customers that Beardow Adams is committed to continual improvement.

Of this achievement, Michael Wakeman, Director of Operations at Beardow Adams, has said:

"This is a major milestone in the short history of Beardow Adams Hot Melt Werk GmbH. The ISO certification underlines our commitment to the market, emphasises our continual improvement, and provides our customers and Global Partners with high quality hot-melt adhesives."

BEARDOW ADAMS™
Unique Adhesives

Building Safety Bill introduced to increase accountability

The long-awaited Building Safety Bill was published on 5th July 2021. The bill sets out how residential buildings should be constructed and maintained. In addition, it gives additional powers to residents to hold builders and developers to account and toughens sanctions against those who threaten resident's safety. Four years after the Grenfell Tower fire and three years after the Hackitt Review, parliament is finally outlining its plans for the necessary reform of the building regulations that had been promised by government in the October 2019 Queen's Speech, before the Covid-19 pandemic. The Bill will include powers to strengthen the regulatory framework for construction products, led by the Office for Product Safety & Standards (OPSS).

The BASA news article published on 6th July gives some details and useful links if you want to read more, and this is found at https://www.basa.uk.com/Home/News/1349

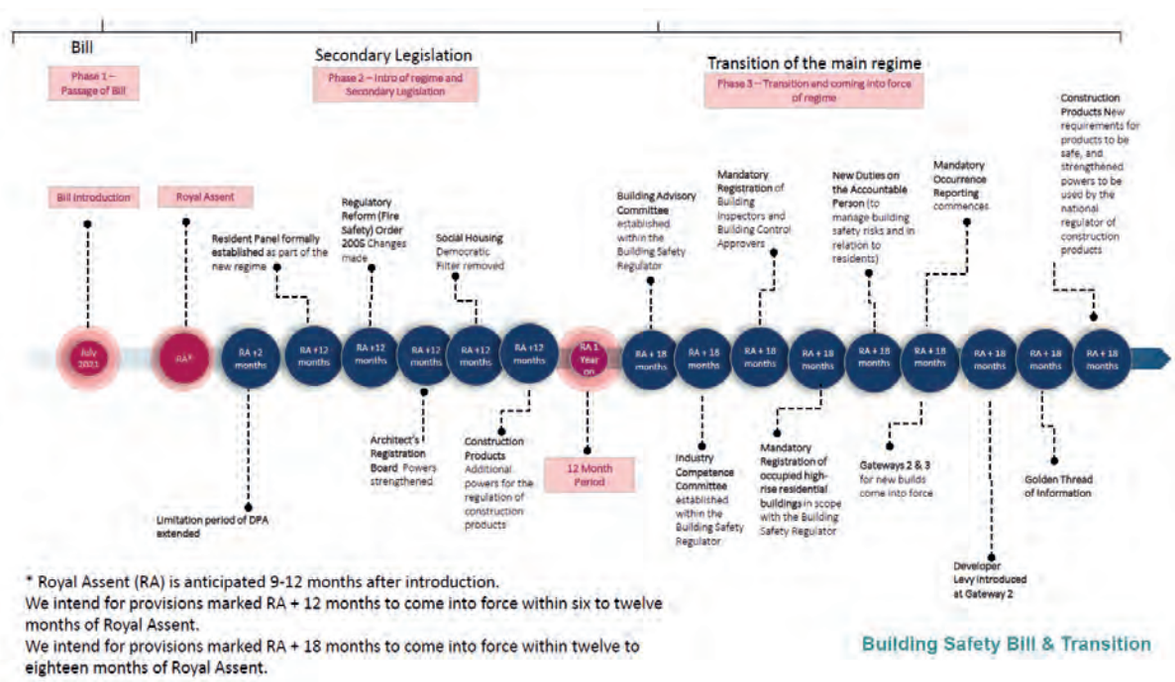
In its first reading on 5th July, the Building Safety Bill has six parts, 147 clauses and 218 pages

- Part 1 provides an overview of the Bill, making changes to existing legislation.
- Part 2 contains provision about the building safety regulator and its functions in relation to buildings in England.
- Part 3 amends the Building Act 1984 to make the regulator the building control authority in relation to higher-risk buildings in England, and to require the regulator (for England) and the Welsh ministers (for Wales) to establish and maintain registers of building control approvers and building inspectors.
- Part 4 is concerned with higher-risk residential buildings in England when they are occupied, and defines the scope of the regime for higher-risk buildings in occupation.
- Part 5 contains further provisions about remediation and redress.
- 6 contains the technical clauses related to the Bill, including Crown application and provision for liability of officers.

Why does this matter to BASA manufacturing members? Well, those of you who have been following the UKCA marking debate may be aware that whilst the aim of the bill is to ensure there are clearly identified individuals responsible for safety during the design, build and occupation of a high-rise building, we had been advised that the additional legislation required to cease recognition of CE marking in Great Britain would be introduced 'with this Bill'.

In fact, this 'new legislation' is not part of the Bill, but will be introduced in phase two as secondary legislation. This cannot be introduced until the Bill itself received Royal Assent. The best place for BASA members to understand the likely timescales is to start is with the Building & Safety Bill & Transition timeline (see figure).

The timeline indicates that the 'additional powers for the regulation of construction products' could come into force within 6-12 months of Royal Assent, and Royal Assent is anticipated 9-12 months from July 2021. So, this means that government does not anticipate any changes to the current UK Construction Products Regulation (as it applies to the GB market) happening before October 2022 and certainly not in time to enforce a 1st January 2022 cessation of recognition of CE marking! Read further detail on the impacts for UKCA & CE marking on Page 3 and BASA's updated guide to UKCA marking on the BASA website.



Practical Advice for EU REACH Compliance after Brexit

Since January 1st, 2021, the end of the Brexit transition period, enterprises have needed to reassess their supply chains and determine if their EU REACH registrations still remain valid. According to the EU REACH regulation, substances of 1 ton/year or greater must be registered before manufacturing/importing activities to the EU. The registrant may be an EU manufacturer, EU importer or an Only Representative. We have seen the impact of Brexit particularly affect EU REACH registrations held by 1) EU companies sourcing from the UK before the end of the transition period and 2) UK companies selling into the EU before the end of the transition period. Northern Ireland continues to follow EU REACH under the Northern Ireland Protocol.

1. UK companies

EU REACH registrations held by UK based companies before the end of the transition period are now considered invalid unless they Grandfathered their registration to an EU based OR before the end of the transition period. The deadline for Grandfathering has passed.

What do you need to do?

UK Manufacturer or UK Formulator

Option 1: Transferred EU REACH registration to an EU based OR before the end of the transition period => registration is still valid

Option 2: EU importer or appoint OR to re-register the substance in the EU

UK Trader

Option 1: If the manufacturer/formulator transferred the EU REACH registration to an EU OR => registration valid

Option 2: Suggest EU customer to register as EU importer

2. EU Companies (including Northern Ireland)

EU companies who relied on the EU REACH registration of their UK based supplier need to reassess their supply chain as this registration is now considered invalid. EU downstream users before the end of the transition period, are now considered as EU importers and have registration obligations.

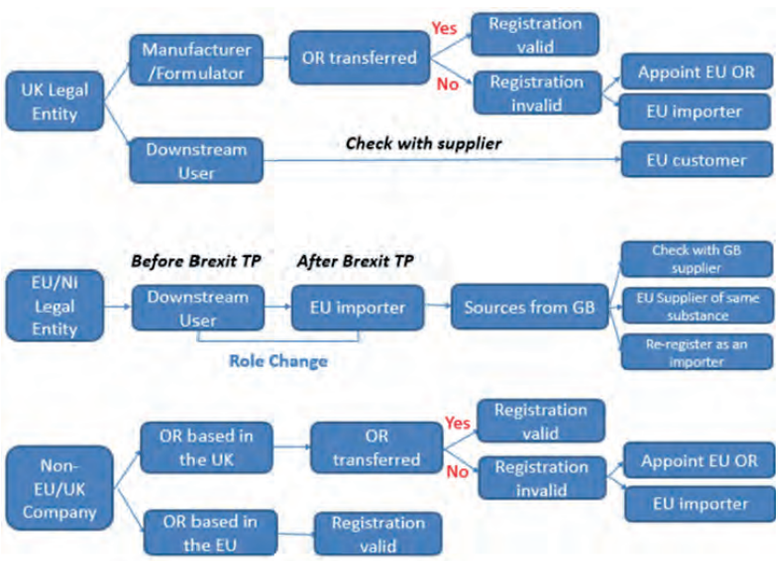
What do you need to do?

EU Trader

Option 1: Contact GB supplier to determine if they have chosen to maintain their EU REACH registration

Option 2: Find another supplier of the same substance within the EU who has a valid EU REACH registration for the substance

Option 3: Re-register as an EU importer.



Practical Advice from CIRS

CIRS recommends the following steps for ensuring companies remain compliant with EU REACH since the end of the Brexit transition period:

1. Create an inventory of chemical substances of 1 ton/year or greater to be supplied to the EU market
2. Determine whether there is a valid EU REACH registration in the supply chains post-Brexit (one registration per supply chain)
3. If the registration is invalid, determine your role in the supply chain and whether you have new registration obligations
4. If our company is relying on another actor in the supply chain to register, consider negotiating the costs between you
5. Determine your budget for registration and collect preliminary cost information
6. If you register as an SME, ensure you have sufficient supportive data, as recommended by ECHA
7. Remember you may need to comply with UK REACH as well as EU REACH

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Intertronics launches new toughened adhesive

~ New toughened epoxy adhesive suitable for mismatched substrate bonding ~

In May 2021, adhesives and dispensing equipment supplier Intertronics introduces the IRS 2128 Toughened Epoxy Adhesive. The material is a high-performance black resin system that offers good chemical resistance and excellent adhesion to a wide variety of substrates. Compared with many other epoxies, it offers vibration resistance and can bond dissimilar substrates more effectively.

A two-part system with a simple 1:2 mix ratio, IRS 2128 is supplied in a convenient side by side double syringe cartridge, complete with static mixing nozzles. It offers excellent adhesion to a variety of metals, composites and plastics. Its resilience means this adhesive can withstand impact and vibration stresses, absorb energy, and deal with bonding materials with different coefficients of thermal expansion (CTE) under thermal cycling. It is a good candidate to test for applications where there is vibration, impact or thermal shock.

"Adhesives are critical in many industrial assemblies and for the project to be a success, the bond must last the full product lifecycle," said Ben Swanson, Sales Manager of Intertronics. "Bonding materials with different CTEs can be challenging because the substrates will expand and contract at different rates, putting stress on the bond. The toughened nature of IRS 2128 helps cope with that, as well as stresses from other physical or thermal shocks."

intertronics

adhesives, coatings, sealants & equipment

for your manufacturing and technology applications

IRS 2128 is toughened, impact resistant, dimensionally stable, gap filling and offers a long pot life. It has good general chemical resistance and is Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directive (RoHS) compliant. The IRS2128-50KIT is available for trials, containing a 50 ml cartridge of epoxy, a syringe gun and three static mixing nozzles. Larger cartridges and bulk packaging is available.

Intertronics stocks a broad range of adhesives, coatings, sealants and equipment to customers with high-technology, high-performance assembly applications. Its customers include manufacturers in the electronic, medical device, plastics, optical, automotive, energy, defence and aerospace industries.

For more information and the full product specification, visit:
https://www.intertronics.co.uk/product/irs-2128-toughened-epoxy-adhesive.

Intertronics introduces Low Shrink™ optical adhesive

~ Intertronics supplies new Dymax OP-81-LS adhesive ~

In June 2021, adhesives supplier Intertronics introduces Dymax Low Shrink™ OP-81-LS UV adhesive, which offers very low volumetric shrinkage. Designed for optical assembly applications that require precise alignment, the material cures in seconds on exposure to UV/visible light. It is single-part, solvent free and can bond dissimilar substrates — it is recommended for materials including polycarbonate, glass, acrylic and metal.

OP-81-LS has very low volumetric shrinkage during cure. Its epoxy chemistry enables a low coefficient of thermal expansion (CTE) and high glass transition temperature (Tg) for stability through thermal cycling, and low outgassing, meeting ASTM E595 outgassing requirements. It features a low temperature (80-85^{0}C) heat-curing function that can be used as the sole cure mechanism where heat cure is preferred or as secondary method in applications where shadow areas exist. Its properties make it well suited for optical positioning, active alignment, and bonding lenses, prisms, windows fibers and other optical components.

"To some extent, all adhesives shrink during curing," explained Andrew Gibson, Sales Executive at Intertronics. "This can cause stress on the parts and lead to focussing and alignment issues during processing. Standard epoxy adhesives can have a shrinkage of around 3 to 5%, so many manufacturers are turning to specially formulated adhesives. This new material offers very low linear shrinkage on the order of 0.01%, which means there is low to no movement during cure.

"UV light curing materials are helping optical engineers to meet the productivity and performance requirements of today's manufacturing environments," added Gibson. "Two-part optical epoxies, for example, take minutes to days to cure where UV curing materials take just seconds. Cure takes place on-demand, which is beneficial during alignment and focussing as the engineer has time to ensure positioning is correct before cure is initiated. Fast, on demand curing reduces work in progress and frees jigs and fixtures for the next assembly."

Dymax OP-81-LS is fully curable in seconds with broad spectrum or LED UV curing lamps. The new material complements Intertronics' existing range of products for optical applications, which includes adhesives and synergistic precison application, dispensing and curing equipment.

For more information on the Low Shrink™ OP-81-LS and Intertronics' range of products for optical applications, visit: https://www.intertronics.co.uk/product/uv-curable-optical-assembly-adhesives/.

Making the switch to less hazardous adhesives

For UK businesses who use solvented adhesives as part of their manufacturing processes, now could be an ideal time to review their current work environment and make the necessary changes to maximise productivity and overall quality by making the switch to less hazardous adhesives. Chemique Adhesives has for many years been pioneering water-based technology in terms of adhesives and application equipment and continually strives to grow the business in areas which lend themselves to water-based technology.

Due to their flexibility and practicality, water-based adhesives are an excellent choice for many industries as they can be an economically viable alternative when compared to solvent-based adhesives.

One of the main advantages of water-based adhesives is that they are environmentally friendly and minimize the impact of pollutants due to the absence of VOCs (volatile organic compounds). They are also highly resistant, form a strong bond and can adhere to a variety of substrates.

Stuart Francis, Managing Director of Chemique Adhesives comments, "For over 30 years we have made progressive steps towards eliminating hazardous solvents from the workplace by replacing these with our state-of-the-art water based adhesive systems which offer a solution to traditional solvent based types that have both environmental and safety shortcomings."

"In the past our water-based adhesive range has been particularly suited to the foam and furniture industry, however with the introduction of our new water-based polymer systems, these adhesives are now ideal for a number of markets and manufacturing processes including automotive and insulated panel lamination."
Water-based adhesives can be applied either manually or automatically, by rolling or spraying and with the right formulation and viscosity, can complement exact production requirements.

Chemique Adhesives offer a range of water-based adhesives to suit a variety of industries including:

- Aircraft seating
- Automotive interiors
- Contract furniture
- Foam conversion
- Insulation products
- Mattress manufacture
- Office seating & screens
- Sofas
- Soft furnishings

Chemique's experienced technical sales and service team can provide innovative solutions by conducting a thorough review of a company's existing bonding process and suggesting a safer type of adhesive. On-site or laboratory testing is also carried out to prove that the recommended adhesive will not only provide a less hazardous option but can also offer cost savings, improved efficiency, and increased output. As well as this, Chemique Adhesives can also install and regularly service all required equipment for added peace of mind.

To find out more about making the switch to solvent-free bonding with minimal disruption whilst optimising your bonding systems and practices, then please get in touch today.

Chemique Adhesives

Rolling Out the Green Carpet: **Chemique Adhesives** launches new range of Artificial Turf Adhesives

Chemique Adhesives have recently launched an innovative range of adhesives that have been developed specifically to meet the needs of the artificial turf market. The new Turftak range features a selection of solvent-free, polyurethane adhesives for use in the installation of artificial turf and provides users with versatile, reliable, and easy to use options for bonding a variety of substrates and joining tapes both outdoors, and in more sensitive indoor environments.

"Artificial turf has become increasingly popular due to its versatility and low maintenance so when compared to natural grass it is often seen as an affordable and effective solution for many areas including public gardens, holiday parks, sports facilities and residential settings." explained Stuart Francis, Managing Director of Chemique Adhesives.

"As a business, we are always committed to offering high performance, quality solutions for a variety of requirements and the new Turftak range provides customers with adhesive solutions that are suitable for both commercial and residential artificial turf installations. These products offer a strong, permanent bond to a variety of substrates and are especially useful in areas of high foot traffic." continued Stuart Francis.

Benefits of the Turftak range include excellent bond strength, high initial tack, superior shock absorption and fast setting times that work in a variety of environments.

Products within the range include an easy to use single-component polyurethane adhesive that saves time and energy as it requires no mixing, is fast setting and is easily applied with a notched trowel. Similarly, Turftak 2 is a two-component formula, that provides complete control over the bonding process and is suitable for installation in a variety of weather conditions. Also included in the range is Turftak MS, a single-component moisture cure SMP (silane-modified polymer) adhesive available in easy to use cartridge form, is UV-stable and has excellent initial tack.

For further details of the Turftak range, please **CLICK HERE.**

Turftak®

Economic Update August 2021

By Roger Martin-Fagg

This update will consider the arguments that the current rise in inflation around the World is either a short-term blip or the beginning of a new inflationary growth cycle.

The basics

There is a variety of inflationary measures. They each have something to offer analysts (and politicians!)

The Retail Price Index (RPI) was first introduced after WW1. In 1992 Norman Lamont decided to take mortgage interest payments out of the index and renamed it RPIX. Since 2017 the main index is CPIH, which is basically RPI plus owner-occupier housing costs. CPIH calculates the basic price increase on 700 different categories of goods and services from data supplied by 120,000 retail outlets.

It takes the geometric mean of prices. This means it calculates the central tendency or typical value of a set of numbers. This approach assumes that consumers will buy less of something if the price goes up and more if the price goes down. The practical consequence is that CPIH will always indicate a lower inflation rate than RPI, which is based on arithmetic means of individual numbers.

So what? Well, RPI and its methodology is considered to be unfit for purpose and is no longer used.

The index is weighted based on recent household expenditure patterns, the data from which comes from household expenditure surveys. Housing costs are 30% of the index, next is recreation and culture at 13.6%, then transport at 12%. Food is a lowly 8%, below restaurants and hotels at 9.6%.

So simply put, rising energy prices push up the index more than rising food prices. An increase in the price of oil is more inflationary than an increase in the price of wheat. The latest inflation rate is 2.1%, up from 1.6% in April, primarily due to rising transport costs.
The fact that May 2020 was a lockdown month is not relevant because the index is based to 2015.

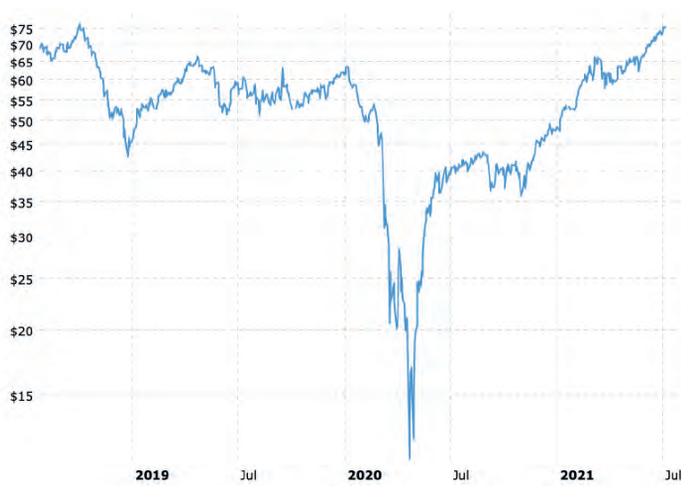
The most recent data from the USA shows CPI 8% above a year earlier, which was not a lockdown month.

Definitions and thoughts

The best definition of inflation is too much money chasing too few goods, services and people. Clearly lockdown reduces the supply of goods and some services. Assuming no further lockdowns, the supply of goods and services will increase. However the growth in money supply in the USA and the UK suggests that, even with increased supply, average price levels will be higher for a year or so, and possibly longer.

The UK inflation rate

The Price of Oil



The cause of the oil price increase is the failure of OPEC to agree increased production quotas in the face of rising global demand. The breakeven price for all oil producers is $93; the Saudis need $77 to meet their budget, Russia needs $72 and the UAE $65. So we should expect further increases, moderated by the US increasing supply as they are not members of OPEC.

So what are the prospects for permanently higher inflation?

If we look at rich countries where manufacturing is under 20% of GDP, what happens to wage growth and productivity in the services sector is key. Globally, manufacturing is better at improving productivity than the service sector. So rising wages in manufacturing do not result in a similar increase in prices. For example, labour cost for a car manufacturer is around 12%, for a typical restaurant 30-40%, for the NHS 45%, and for a

law firm 70%.

Years with the largest changes in pricing: 1947 *(49.78%)*, 1948 *(8.97%)*, and 1949 *(8.95%)*.

Since Covid the big price increases are in equities and real estate. Central bankers tend to ignore rampant asset price inflation. For the politicians it is popular; middle class property owners like it and the very rich love it as their equity wealth soars.

Export prices out of China are rising by 10%, the surge in transport prices will abate as containers become positioned in the right place, and all container and bulk carrier vessels have Covid-free crews due to vaccination.

The basic driver of a rising rate of inflation is wage growth above productivity growth, and money supply expanding above trend. Wage growth above productivity growth is due to tight labour markets. Which in turn is due to full employment. Australia and NZ are suffering significant labour shortages due to closing their borders, the UK due to Brexit and the USA due to generous handouts reducing the need to work.

If a business wishes to protect its net margin and has price-making power then the wage costs will be fully passed on. So think top level lawyers, management consultants, IT specialists. If they do not have price-making power then for a period margins are depressed during which time the firm looks to automate and outsource. Both will be aimed at increasing the productivity of a smaller labour force. A good example is Amazon. Four years ago pickers processed 100 orders an hour. Extensive robotisation has increased this to 300. Given the demographic profile of many rich countries this is essential and inevitable.
In fact, wage pressure from the market or Government raising minimum wages is the key driver of innovation and consequent productivity gains.

The minimum wage in France has been relatively higher than the UK's for many years. Their productivity per hour of work is consistently higher. Mainly because they work fewer hours per year and most importantly do not employ wasters which is why their unemployment rate is constantly higher. Total output in France and the UK is almost the same, but we spend longer producing it!

The average Brit works 1674 hours, in France 1482 and in Germany 1371.

The Money Supply
Over the past 16 months money supply in major economies has expanded massively due to Covid support financing from Central Banks. Lending by commercial banks is only slightly above normal. The new money is now in the accounts of households and businesses. Clearly this stimulus has propelled equity and real estate prices to record highs. From now I expect much larger flows into hospitality and recreation. And the prices charged by both these sectors to increase. As these two sectors enjoy a much needed boost I expect retail sales to soften and thus the supply chains have time to catch up. But unusual weather patterns, repeated lockdowns, and peaks in demand will result in supply disruption for the next two years and possibly longer.

The core issue is however that when money is spent it continues to exist to be spent again. There is $20 trillion more in the World than 17 months ago. This is the same size as a year's output of the USA.

The question is when will Central Banks turn off the money tap?

The only indicator we have for the UK is a recent comment by the Governor of the B of E. He said when the MPC raises bank rate to 1.5%, then the bank will cease further QE. Then the yield on Gilts will begin to rise from the current 0.8% with mortgage rates following. This is from the minutes of the May meeting:

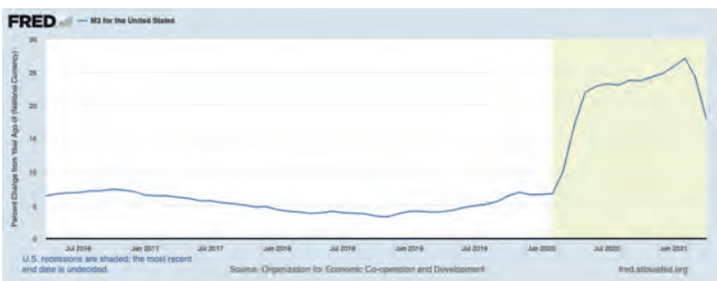
In the central projections of the MPC!s May Report, the economy experiences a temporary period of strong GDP growth and a temporary period of modestly above-target CPI inflation, after which growth and inflation fall back, with inflation around the target two and three years ahead.

Please note that the track record of the MPC in forecasting growth and inflation is not good. But they think that inflation will be above 2% for the next two to three years. The level is not specified. If wage growth runs at 5-6% over the next 18 months, then expect MPC interest rates to rise towards
1.5%.

The Federal Reserve have said they will not raise rates until 2023 and continue to supply $125Bn a month of new money to their economy. But I would expect opinion to change in the Autumn.

Economic Update Continued

Their money supply is currently growing at 18% yoy. Inflation-free growth rate should be 6%. As you can see from the chart below, used cars top the inflation list because new cars are in short supply due to lack of semiconductors. Medical services are next which is not surprising given Covid. Then Financial services, which is clearly driven by excess money; people have more money so lets' take it off them! Housing is seen as an investment so rising prices cause further price rises - the so called "bigger fool" hypothesis.



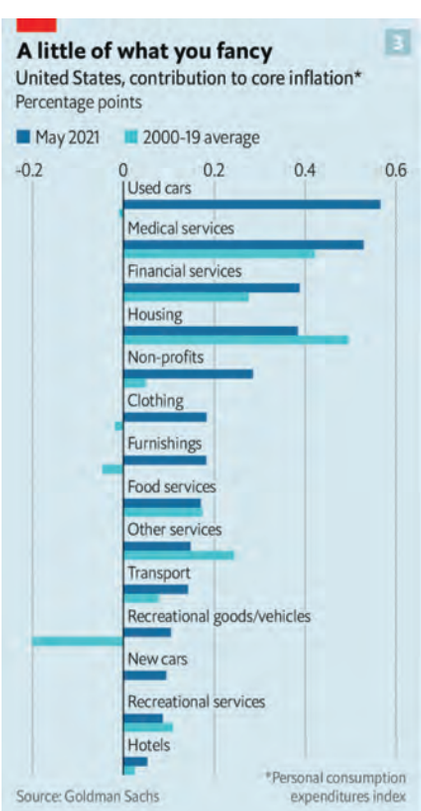
It is clear, given the size of the stimulus, the USA is overheating. Core inflation is rising at 8.3%.

Turning to Europe.,the ECB have said they will continue QE until March next year. And have announced that they will be not too concerned if inflation runs above their 2% target. This is a significant shift in attitude, and follows on from the Federal Reserve approach which is to average inflation over a number years.

In essence this means that the most influential central banks in the World are happy to see inflation above 2%, which in turn means any necessary increase in interest rates will be delayed.

EU money supply is growing at 8.5%. Normal is 5%.

The ECB have also said they are going to (at last) include housing costs in their CPI index of inflation. This will certainly take the rate of inflation close to 3% given the 10% increase in German house prices.



Eurozone Money Supply

The Bank of England is sending mixed messages currently. The latest is that the current stimulus will be continued until the Monetary Policy Committee have raised base rate to 1.5%, at which point they may begin to reduce the stimulus.

History to date indicates that central Banks are always behind the curve. They delay increases in rate and then when it's too late they have to increase them by more to rein in our animal spirits.

In fairness to them Covid is a new Black Swan event and the World is mostly unvaccinated so I guess it makes sense to keep the money tap fully on for the time being.

UK Money Supply Growth yoy

NB latest is May 2021 on May 2020

Please note that all the money supply graphs show percentage change year on year. So in the UK money supply grew by 8.5% on May last year when it grew by 12%. Visually it looks like a reduction, when in fact its a lower growth rate on an already high base.
Having said this, if over the next 6 months we see the red line drop to 2-4%, it would suggest only small increases in base rate are required and the spike in inflation is temporary. We shall see.

The implications of Covid for tax rates

The national debt of the major economies has increased significantly over the past year. Federal government debt now stands at $28.2 trillion. In the current fiscal year, taxpayers have shelled out $319.9 billion in interest expense on all that debt after paying $522.8 billion in 2020.

Journalists do not seem to understand the truth. The

truth is if the central bank finances the debt i.e. by buying Government bonds then when the Government pays the interest it flows to the central bank and then back to the Government. IT IS NOT A CHARGE ON THE TAXPAYER.

The UK national debt is £2 trillion. £0.9T is held by the Bank of England, so nearly half the interest bill is a closed loop within Government. The Fed, the B of E and the ECB all pay interest received on Government bonds back to the Government. Effectively Government bonds held by central banks is debt relief. But because the population do not understand this, Governments will probably raise taxes using the cost of Covid argument. If they were honest they would say we are raising taxes to pay pensions, and for health and social care all of which are costing more with ageing economies.

The UK Government will launch a 'Social Solidarity' tax next March. It will raise £10Bn and is likely to be a 1% charge on employees and employers. Effectively an increase in NI.

At the time of writing it is clear the stimulus remains. So there is enough new money in the system to finance inflationary wage growth of 5-6%. This is what I expect to happen in the UK. CPIH will be running between 3 and 4% over the next 12 months. I suspect Boris will call an election in 18 months. Until then expect only small increases in interest rates.

This will ensure UK house prices rise 5% over the next 12 months.

Currently it is my belief that Governments and Central Bankers are trying very hard to ensure inflationary expectations do not become embedded in the national psyche, because once they are it is almost impossible to rein then in without strangling the economy. For example the inflationary period of the seventies was caused by two factors; the first was a fourfold increase in the price of oil, the second was a significant relaxation of credit controls.

The blame is always laid at the trades unions for negotiating above inflation wage awards, but theirs was a response to inflation which was effectively imported and then financed by the commercial banking system. In the early eighties the UK Government was determined to kill inflationary expectations by reining in the TradesUnions. In fact the economy was strangled by North Sea Oil resulting in a significantly overvalued £. Result? A collapse in manufacturing exports and a surge in manufactured goods.

As unemployment soared to over three million, labour bargaining power was reduced. This was more influential than legislation. But yet again restrictions on credit creation were reduced and by 1990 inflation was running at 10%. The collapse in Barclays and NatWest and 14% base rate in 1990 brought money supply down from 14% yoy to 2% yoy growth within a year. And the next ten years was a period of stable growth with a stable inflation rate.

What is the point of telling you this?

Inflation and expectations of inflation are both the result of excess money. There is currently excess money in the global system. Inflation is rising but as yet it is not embedded in the psyche. The next year will be crucial.

Cryptocurrencies

Money has three key functions. It is a medium of exchange, a store of wealth and a unit of account. $ and £ whether in electronic or paper form deliver this. The most popular digital currency is Bitcoin. It has a market value of $700Bn, but a single tweet can knock off 40% of its value. It's an environmental disaster. Mining it uses electric power equivalent to the whole of Pakistan's electrical supply. And the blockchain software also uses signifcant computing power.

Central Banks worry that crypto will reduce their ability to influence the money supply and are considering creating their own crypto which would effectively be a digital representation of their own currency. If and when they do I suggest cryptocurrencies will be mainly used for illicit trading and the dark web. You can no longer buy a Tesla with Bitcoin.

The price of Bitcoin on one day shows extreme volatility.

Until central banks universally accept bitcoin in exchange for local currency, it's role will be limited. Currently 92% of Bitcoin is not actively traded. Bitcoin is so far not a very good store of wealth and a lousy medium of exchange. But it has been purchased by many, presumably alongside lottery tickets or even instead of them.nCentral Bank digital currencies would be available to all and could be a very efficient low-cost payment system run directly by not for profit central banks.

The Impact of Brexit

The Covid stimulus plus lockdowns have reduced the impact. 60% of companies report no volume impact from Brexit, 33% report reductions (but how much is due to EU Covid?) For many there are increased transaction costs and delays increasing the need for more more working capital. Exports to the EU rose 9% in May. Meanwhile the unravelling of 40 years of legal constructs has only just begun. It will be years before
we can say we have really left.

Exchange rates

Brazil, Russia and China have all reduced their Covid financial stimuli. China has tightened domestic credit.
But the USA, UK and EU are all still in expansionary mode. On balance the volume of US money creation implies a weaker dollar, but if the Fed changes its position and raises rates before 2023 then the opposite will happen. We await the outcome of the central bankers' conference next month. $1.40 looks sensible until September and 1.20 Euro. Then we will have to see!

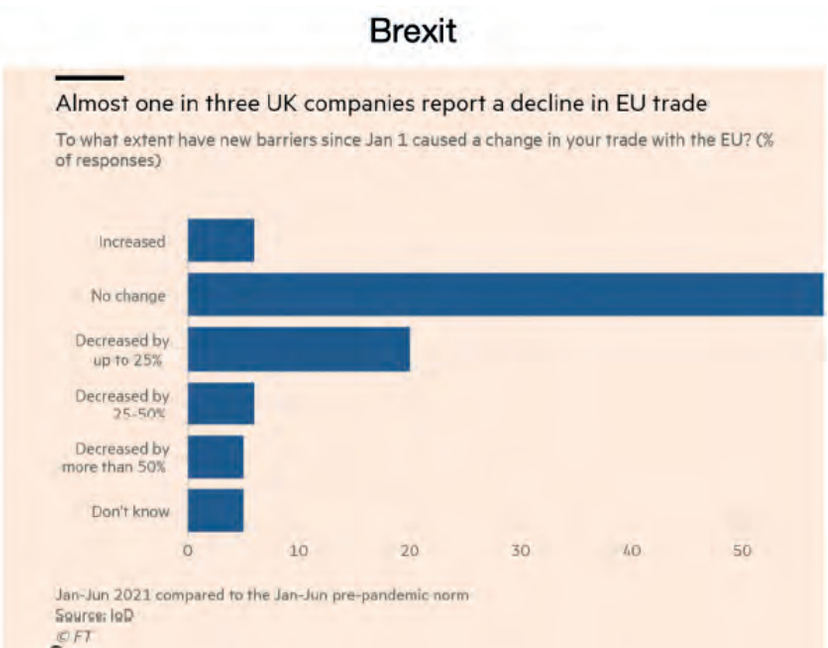
The Outlook for SMEs

As I have said before the success of the UK depends on the performance of businesses which employ less than 200 people. They produce 60% of our national income. They are mostly extremely adept at adjusting their business model to changing circumstances. This is because of can-do and must-do attitudes on behalf of owners and employees. I believe this is because of a short and direct link between customer satisfaction and what appears in the bank account.

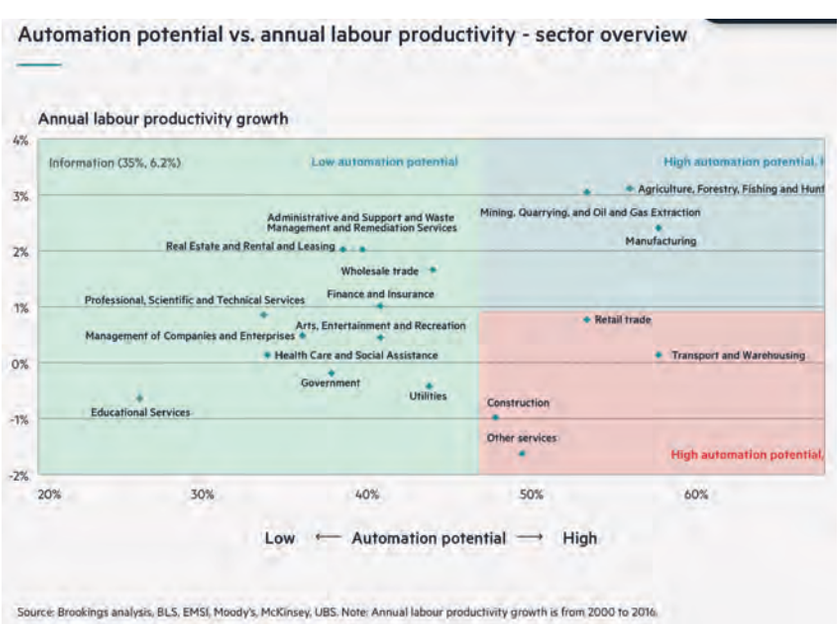
I think Covid gave some employees the excuse to stay at home when asked to return to work, they are the ones who will find themselves redundant in the Autumn when furlough is over. But the vast majority whilst working from home increased output per hour and it has been a challenge for SME owners to avoid employee burn out, which of course they are dealing with.

I am often asked is this a good time to invest? If the owner can see an opportunity and believes the team can deliver, then it's always a good time to invest. There is no shortage of money, so now is a superb time to invest in growth. The latest survey of CFOs shows their focus is on growth not cost reduction. 77% expect to hire more, 71% are planning to increase investment spending, particularly on technology. And they expect to expand through M&A.
Assuming no more lockdowns the stage is set for a period of inflationary growth. History tells us that Governments always allow the inflation genie to rise from the bottle primarily because it is improves the chances for re-election. Both the USA and the UK have leaders who have promised to deliver infrastructure renewal using the central bank money tree.

If you were thinking of selling your business, the next 18 months looks like the window of opportunity. Finally the USA and the UK will enjoy higher growth and higher inflation than forecast. I will give you at least two years' warning of the end of the party!



And finally - The following chart has just been produced by UBS. It is their estimate of which sectors will enjoy the largest productivity gains via automation. And which have the lowest potential. I note that Educational Services have the least potential for automation.



REACH Annex II Safety Data Sheets

REACH Annex II was recently updated through an amendment. REACH Annex II regulation (2020/878) was published in July and will require all safety data sheets to be updated by the end of December 2022. It will apply from 1 January 2021 requiring all SDS to be written in this new format.

Since the implementation date was after the end of the transition period, it will not be adopted into law in Scotland, England or Wales. SDS in GB will need to comply with the "old" REACH Annex II requirements.

The EU will of course adopt it in full and so any EU safety data sheets must comply with it.

This means that GB and the EU and NI will have different formats that need to be followed.

It is likely that the HSE will take a pragmatic approach and accept SDS in GB that follow either format.

Poison Centres Member State updates

ECHA recently announced that over 1 million poison centre notifications have been made to the ECHA harmonised portal. It has not yet been announced formally but the Czech Republic are about to go live with the ECHA portal.

That just leaves Belgium, Bulgaria, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Luxembourg and Slovakia to go live.

Transport Regulations

On the 1st July 2021 ADR came fully into force – the changes can be found **here.**

IATA has two addendums;

The first addendum changes are mostly related to operator variations, but there are also changes to packing instructions 360, 361, 362, 363 and 364. The changes took effect on 1 January 2020.
https://www.iata.org/contentassets/b08040a138dc4442a4f066e6fb99fe2a/dgr62-addendum1-en.pdf

The second addendum changes are mostly related to operator variations, but there are also changes to special provision A220.
https://www.iata.org/contentassets/b08040a138dc4442a4f066e6fb99fe2a/dgr62-addendumii-en-23-february-2021.pdf

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has published the IMDG Code Amendment 40-20. It had been delayed as a result of COVID-19 and should have been published in autumn 2020. The new code may be applied on a voluntary basis from after the 1st January 2021. Mandatory compliance will start on 1st June 2022 rather than 1st January 2022.

The Eurotunnel has published guidance for the transport of dangerous goods through the Eurotunnel. The guides have been updated in line with the 2021 regulations.

The Eurotunnel's dangerous goods guide 2021 can be found here:
https://www.eurotunnelfreight.com/uploadedfiles/xnt/adr_2021_uk.pdf

And the guide to drivers here:
https://www.eurotunnelfreight.com/uploadedfiles/xnt/transporting-dangerous-goods-guide-to-drivers.pdf

EU Candidate List updated with eight hazardous chemicals

Entries added to the Candidate List on 8 July 2021: Most have been added to the Candidate List because they are hazardous to human health as they are toxic for reproduction, carcinogenic, respiratory sensitisers or endocrine disruptors.

#	Substance name	EC number	CAS number	Reason for inclusion	Examples of use(s)
1	2-(4-tert-butylbenzyl)propionaldehyde and its individual stereoisomers	-	-	Toxic for reproduction (Article 57 c)	Cleaning agents, cosmetics, in scented articles, polishes and wax blends.
2	Orthoboric acid, sodium salt	237-560-2	13840-56-7	Toxic for reproduction (Article 57 c)	Not registered under REACH. May be used as solvent and corrosion inhibitor.
3	2,2-bis(bromomethyl)propane1,3-diol (BMP); 2,2-dimethylpropan-1-ol, tribromo derivative/3-bromo-2,2-bis(bromomethyl)-1-propanol (TBNPA); 2,3-dibromo-1-propanol (2,3-DBPA)	221-967-7, 253-057-0, 202-480-9	3296-90-0, 36483-57-5, 1522-92-5, 96-13-9	Carcinogenic (Article 57 a)	BMP: manufacture of polymer resins and in one component foam (OCPF) application. TBNPA: polymer production manufacture of plastics products, including compounding and conversion and as an intermediate. DBPA: registered as an intermediate.
4	Glutaral	203-856-5	111-30-8	Respiratory sensitising properties (Article 57f - human health)	Biocides, leather tanning, x-ray film processing, cosmetics.
5	Medium-chain chlorinated paraffins (MCCP) (UVCB substances consisting of more than or equal to 80% linear chloroalkanes with carbon chain lengths within the range from C14 to C17)	-	-	PBT (Article 57d) vPvB (Article 57e)	Flame retardants, plasticising additives in plastics, sealants, rubber and textiles.
6	Phenol, alkylation products (mainly in para position) with C12-rich branched alkyl chains from oligomerisation, covering any individual isomers and/ or combinations thereof (PDDP)	-	-	Toxic for reproduction (Article 57c) Endocrine disrupting properties (Article 57f - human health and environment)	Preparation of lubricant additive materials and of fuel system cleaners.
7	1,4-dioxane	204-661-8	123-91-1	Carcinogenic (Article 57a) Equivalent level of concern having probable serious effects to the environment (Article 57f -environment) Equivalent level of concern having probable serious effects to human health (Article 57f –human health)	Solvent

FEICA Suppliers' Day - Online Event - 8th September 2021

FEICA's first virtual Suppliers' Day offers a broad programme with speakers presenting on polyolefin hotmelts, SMP and silicone sealants, solvent- and water-based adhesives, PU adhesives and sealants, manufacturing processes and business innovations. The event is free-of-charge for BASA members. Registration for all participants is mandatory. Browse the programme and register NOW.

FEICA'S Sustainable Development (SD) Committee & Sustainability and Recycling of Adhesives in Paper and Packaging Applications (SRAPPA)

SD Committee

The FEICA Sustainable Development Working Group (WG) last met virtually on June 24th 2021 and its focus remains on the monitoring of the Commission's activities within the area of Circular Economy and Sustainability, as well as engaging with regulators to ensure the value the European Adhesives and Sealants industry contributes is recognised. Engagement with other relevant stakeholder associations and bodies is also ongoing where appropriate. The following is an overview of the highlights from the discussions:

Good Practice Stories

The Group has been posting 'Good Practice Stories' on the FEICA public website where there are currently 22 stories, covering industries such as Construction (Energy Saving, Insulation and Extending Life-span), Bookbinding, Packaging, Consumer and Automotive. Please look at these and if you have anything that you would like to submit that helps promote our industry in this area, please get in touch with the BASA Secretary or myself. These stories can be found at:

http://www.feica.eu/information-center/good-practices.aspx

EU Chemical Strategy for Sustainability (CSS)

The European Commission published a chemicals strategy for sustainability on 14 October 2020. It is part of the EU's zero pollution ambition, which is a key commitment of the European Green Deal.

FEICA's European Advocacy Group (EAG) has been set up to develop and communicate our industry's position to the Commission on this and other EU strategic in initiatives.

The EAG has identified the following CSS aims, all bullet points taken from a presentation by Kristel Ons (FEICA Secretary General):

- ban the most harmful chemicals in consumer products
- account for the cocktail effect of chemicals when assessing risks from chemicals
- phase out the use of PFAS* in the EU, unless their use is essential
- boost the investment and innovative capacity for production and use of chemicals that are safe and sustainable by design, and throughout their life cycle
- promote the EU's resilience of supply and sustainability of critical chemicals
- establish a simpler "one substance one assessment" process for the risk and hazard assessment of chemicals
- propose hazard identification criteria (additional SVHC* categories) for endocrine disruptors and PBT* and vPvB* chemicals
- reform the authorisation and restriction processes under REACH
- extend the registration requirements to certain polymers of concern
- strengthen enforcement regarding non-compliant REACH registration dossier

* PFAS: per- and polyfluoralkyl substances, SVHC: Substances of Very High Concern, PBT: Persistent, Bio-accumulative and Toxic, vPvB: very Persistent and very Bio-accumulative

A leaflet for FEICA members is being prepared highlighting the priorities within the CSS that could impact our industry so that we can present a united front when talking both internally within our organisations and externally with the authorities and other stakeholders.

Post-BREXIT, it will be interesting to see whether the UK follows the same principles in it's own Chemical Strategy development. Obviously both will need to be followed by UK industry supplying product to both the UK and the EU!

Other topics being followed by the EAG are (TTF: Technical Task Force, TWG: Technical Working Group):

• Safe & Sustainable by Design criteria (EAG & SD Committee)
• Sustainable Products Initiative (SPI) – Questionnaire & targeted survey (EAG/SD Committee/TTF Electronics)
• Eco-design consultations on Electronics (EAG/SD Committee/TTF Electronics)
• EU Strategy for a Sustainable Built Environment (SSBE) (EAG/SD Committee/TWG Construction)
• Chemical Recycling (CR): one-pager developed with SD Committee/EAG
• Mixture Assessment Factor (MAF): leaflet for non-experts (politicians) under development
• Joint letter on Essential Use (Essential Use Concept Alliance/EAG/SD Committee)
• Joint letter on Mandatory product information & digital means (Digital Consumer Alliance/EAG/SD Committee)

SRAPPA TTF

This TTF is looking at both plastics paper packaging sustainability issues. Jana Cohrs (FEICA Executive Director Regulatory Affairs), and secretary to the TTF, reported the activities and progress as of June 2021:

Plastics related

• FEICA established several liaisons with stakeholders of plastic recycling (or authors of design for recycling guidelines)
• FEICA adopted several definitions on terminology to be used in plastic recycling
• FEICA became a member of RecyClass*
  o Vision: harmonization of methodology and guidelines across the EU
  o Uniform implementation
  o Scientifically grounded approach
  o Collaboration of different actors in the plastics packaging supply chain

• FEICA has finalized position paper on terminology and technologies for adhesives in plastics recycling (Note to BASA members, paper published February 2021)

* ResyClass – an initiative driven by the interests of brands, retailers, converters, raw material producers and recyclers to advance recyclability of plastics packaging and establish a harmonised approach towards the use of recycled material.

FEICA webinar "Communicating on adhesives in plastics recycling" – 28 April 2021
– 28 April 2021
– 410 registrants
– Registrant list: supply chain + recycling stakeholders + universities

Paper related

• FEICA input to the European paper industry proposal for a harmonised European test method on testing the recyclability of paper packaging
• FEICA is joining the association updates from 4evergreen*
  – Cross-industry alliance (company members only)
  – Goal: optimizing fiber-based packaging circularity and climate performance

General activities

§ FEICA has published position paper to call for harmonization of existing design4recycling guidelines from different stakeholders

§ FEICA input to the Consultation on the Packaging and Packaging Waste Directive

* 4evergreen – a cross-industry alliance fostering synergies among companies promoting low-carbon and circular fibre-based packaging.

If you have any questions on any of the above, please contact me at tony@agbchemcom.com

The next meeting of the Sustainable Development Committee is on October 19th 2021.

Working Group Management

You will all be aware of the increase in workload that has resulted after Brexit. As a result, we are finding it increasingly difficult to encourage new people to take on the role of working group chair for some of the working groups. We are looking at ways to manage the situation, perhaps using discussion forum and smaller more informal groups, or having a rotating chair/convenor, but as the secretariat and consultants now need to monitor and input into independent GB decisions as well as keeping an eye on the EU processes through FEICA we do need to retain an active discission with members.

We are currently looking for a new Chair for the Building Adhesives & Construction products Working Group, supported by me as the WG consultant. Please read the terms of reference on the website to understand what the role involves, and also remember that all of the current and past chairs started with little or no experience and grew into the roles with time and help from the Secretariat – so why not give it a go?

Jim Palmer, BASA Technical Officer and TSC Chair

Dow celebrates 50 years of innovation with its first 4-sided silicone glazing application

4-sided silicone structural glazing applications have helped to change the face of urban landscapes

Midland, Michigan – June 8, 2021 – As the world's largest construction silicone provider, Dow has been a pioneer in discovering the multi-purpose nature of silicones and bringing new innovations into the construction industry. This year marks the 50th anniversary of one of those innovations - Dow's pioneering of 4-sided silicone structural glazing (SSG) application in 1971. In the years since, Dow has developed many SSG products that are used to create visually stunning glass façades and helps allow architects and builders to redefine the built environment of tomorrow.

Prior to the 1960s, mechanical fasteners and gaskets were required to attach glass to a building's framework. Then, 2 sided SSG was introduced in the 60's, followed by Dow's 4-sided SSG in the 70's which allowed architects and builders the option to create uninterrupted walls of glass – for much greater creativity and design freedom in the building and construction industry.

"For over 50 years, we have worked alongside professionals in the building and construction industries to help bring innovative and ambitious designs to life with our silicone structural glazing technologies" said Jean-Paul Hautekeer, Global Marketing Director for Building & Infrastructure at Dow. "As architects and builders today continue the journey toward safer and more sustainable structures, we're proud to work alongside them to make our mark in the cities of tomorrow. We look forward to the next 50 years of pushing the envelope forward with our silicone structural glazing products."

Along with the 4-sided SSG materials, Dow continues to develop innovative and sustainable solutions for building and infrastructure. For more information on the latest developments, please visit our website.

1st August 2021 was a significant day for Ravago Chemicals UK as this was the start-date with our new partner in polymer emulsion chemistry SYNTHOMER.

Our website is now updated with all products and is user-easy on the search function.

Please feel free to contact us for anything related to SYNTHOMER, we are here to help.

Keep an eye on 'Ravago Chemicals UK' LinkedIn page as they will be running product-focussed articles over the coming weeks and months.

https://uk.ravagochemicals.com/synthomer-functional-solutions/

BASA Bulletin Online is our online only newsletter for the British and Irish Adhesives and Sealants Association, to keep members updated inbetween our yearly printed bulletins. Thank you to members for your company stories and please continue to send us your news which we will share accross our media platforms.

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